

too much in so small a space. The Notes on Distribution are stated by Mr. Davis to have been mainly prepared from Wallace. They contain a mass of facts in a very small compass, and by their aid the intelligent student will, with the minimum of trouble to himself, be able to "get up" several general questions which the hearts of examiners in zoology love. Nevertheless we should much like to have Mr. Davis's reasons for including the lion among the species peculiar to the Ethiopian Region.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Is Asterias tenuispina, Lamk., a British Species?

IN reply to Prof. Jeffrey Bell's inquiry (p. 424) I should say most certainly that *Asterias tenuispina*, Lamk., is *not* British. I have never seen or heard of an authentic specimen. It is true, as Prof. Jeffrey Bell remarks, that Gray in his 'Synopsis' writes "Inhab. British coast, Mediterranean;" but upon what evidence is this assertion made? I conclude upon a synonym he gives, "*Ast. spinosa*, Pennant." What, then, has Pennant to say?—" *Ast.* with *five* rays of almost equal thickness, beset with numerous spines." *Five* will not do for *A. tenuispina*. Moreover, Pennant does not appear to have seen the form himself. He gives two references—one to Borlase's 'Cornwall,' tab. xxv. fig. 18, the other to Linck, tab. iv. no. 7. Borlase is not in my library, but a reference to Linck shows a figure of a five-rayed starfish, certainly not *A. tenuispina*, of which he writes:—"Vivæ sunt subcæruleæ. Ejusdem speciei duplo majores se invenisse fatetur, primum in Oceano occidentali Hybernico, post juxta Pensans in Cornubio." Here seems to be the origin of Gray's mistaken statement that *Asterias tenuispina* is found on our coast. Linck's figure and his words "Vivæ sunt subcæruleæ" appear to me conclusively to prove that the starfish which he called *Pentadactylosaster spinosus regularis* was a small specimen of *A. glacialis*.

Asterias tenuispina, Lamarck, has six to eight arms and is a littoral form. Such a distinct species could scarcely have evaded discovery if it occurred on our shores. It is a well-known Mediterranean Asterid, which would appear to have had a southern origin. It is said to have occurred in the Madeiran, Canary*, and Cape-Verd Islands, and in the Florida Sea (*Ludvig*); and also at Bermuda, Abrolhos, Mauritius, Java, Molucca, Australia, and Hong Kong (*Perrier*). In the Mediterranean it is recorded from many places on the Italian and Sicilian coasts and in the Adriatic. My own specimens are from Naples (*Staz. Zool.*) and Mahon, Spain (*Señor Pedro Antiga*), this last being the only known occurrence of the species in the western Mediterranean; but Quatrefages records it much further

* It is figured by d'Orbigny from the Canaries, Webb and Berthelot, Hist. Nat. des Iles Canaries, Échinodermes, pl. iii. figs. 14-20.

north in the Atlantic, namely Les Passages, near San Sebastian; Paul Fischer, however, has not met with it on the closely adjoining south-west coast of France.

It may be added that Lamarek, in his original description of the species, speaks of its being confounded with *A. glacialis*, and points out the differences between the species. A. M. NORMAN.

Burnmoor,
Nov. 3, 1890.

Since writing the above, on turning to Dujardin and Hupé, I find that they, as I have done, refer Linck's and Pennant's form to *A. glacialis*.

Aspidiotus bicarinatus a *Lepidopterous Larva*.

To the Editors of the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*.

10 Observatory Gardens,
Campden Hill, Kensington, W.,
November 6, 1890.

GENTLEMEN,—On looking through the collection of Coccidæ in the Students' Insect-Room at the Natural-History branch of the British Museum my attention was drawn to two insects labelled *Aspidiotus bicarinatus*. The tickets attached to these insects showed them to be the veritable types described by Walker in the supplement of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Homoptera,' p. 306, as *Aspidiotus bicarinatus*. But upon examination I found them to be the dried larvæ of a Limacodid moth closely resembling those of the Indian species *Narosa conspersa*. The caterpillar of this moth has a coriaceous integument with two well-developed dorsal ridges. As the specimens in question were received from North China, they are probably the larvæ of some allied species.

It is difficult to understand how the mistake could have originated. In its dried state the caterpillar has certainly some superficial resemblance to a Coccid; but its head and mouth-parts at once proclaim its true character. E. E. GREEN.

Note on Irrisor Jacksoni, sp. n. By R. BOWDLER SHARPE.

In a letter just received from Mr. F. J. Jackson he has given some very interesting notes on birds, some of which he believes to be new to science. The *Irrisor* is certainly undescribed, and I herewith name it after the explorer.

Irrisor Jacksoni, sp. n.

Ad. Similis *I. Bollei*, sed minor rostro brevior, tectricibus alarum intimis chalybeis nec cuprescentibus distinguendus.

Long. tot. 13·0, culmin. 1·35, alæ 4·85, caudæ 7·4, tarsi 0·8.

Hab. Kikuyu Country, Eastern Africa.